

eyes fixed on the hole and never left for a second. It is impossible that the bones had been placed in the hole by someone during the digging, because there were only three of us, the sorcerer, my boy and myself. While the boy was digging the sorcerer and I watched, and when the sorcerer started to dig, the boy stood next to me, and we two watched. Had anyone dropped the bones into the hole, I would have seen it, apart from the fact that there were not only single bones but a complete corpse.

RESEARCH OFFICER'S NOTES

I. The Infra-red Telescope

One of the many inventions developed during the war is an apparatus with which one can "see in the dark". There have been several references to this instrument in the press of recent months. Its use in night-time manoeuvres, such as tracking criminals, has been enlarged upon, and many people may have wondered about its application to the séance room.

The fact is, there are models of infra-red telescope ideally suited to the investigation of physical phenomena. There has to be a source of infra-red radiation in the room, but this can readily be adjusted to give off no visible light whatever. An optical device quite similar to an ordinary telescope picks up and focusses the infra-red light reflected from objects and people in the room. The instrument forms an image on a fluorescent screen. With a good source of light, every detail of a completely dark room can be made as visible as if it were flooded with bright sunlight. Looking through the instrument one can read the time by the wrist watch of a person three yards away.

The significance of this infra-red telescope for psychical investigation can hardly be over-estimated. Physical mediums may sit in inky blackness, but in spite of that handicap their phenomena can be watched and studied almost as easily as if they were taking place in broad daylight. To the genuine medium this will be a welcome innovation. The disagreeable methods of manual control, the switching on and off of red lights, the constant suspicion of something underhanded going on in the dark, in fact all the unpleasantness and discomfort of the old-fashioned seance can be avoided by the judicious application of this new instrument. The genuine medium has everything to gain and nothing to lose by sitting with this instrument, and we may look forward with confidence to a much clearer understanding of physical phenomena in the near future. For the fraudulent medium on the other hand, the telescope will be very disturbing.

I am pleased to say that the Society is being very kindly lent one of these

infra-red telescopes for use in its séance room. Members who are in touch with physical mediums will be able to invite them to come to the Society for this new and pleasant form of investigation. There have always been some people who, rightly or wrongly, maintain that the suspicious and critical attitude of the usual scientific investigator either inhibits genuine phenomena, or else encourages fraud. With the facilities which will soon be available at the Society, these people will be able to investigate on their own and literally "see it for themselves".

It would of course be possible to use an infra-red telescope without the medium being aware of its presence, but such a policy is unnecessary. No genuine medium can have any reason to fear the new device. Only the fraudulent medium will be put off, and after all we do not want to waste time with frauds.

II. Offer to Genuine Physical Mediums

Some interested psychical investigators, who wish to remain anonymous, but who are known to the Hon. Editor, make the following announcement to mediums who can produce genuine objective physical phenomena.

"£250 will be given to the first medium who, in response to this notice, gives sittings in the séance room of the Society for Psychical Research, and can there produce supernormal physical phenomena which the Society's Research Officer can prove to his satisfaction are genuine. This offer will remain open until Dec. 31st 1947."

It must be made clear that the Council of the Society for Psychical Research are not responsible for this offer. While they welcome the opportunity it gives for investigation, and are willing that the séance room should be used, and that their Research Officer should act as arbiter of the genuineness of the phenomena, the decision of the Research Officer must be regarded as his own personal view. The Society's policy is to express no corporate opinion, and whatever the outcome of the proposed investigation it must not be taken as committing the Council as to the genuineness or otherwise of any particular medium or mediums.

III. Maurice Fogel

Several members of the Society have asked me about the stage performer, Mr Maurice Fogel, who claims remarkable telepathic powers. Articles have appeared in the press (*The Sunday Pictorial*, 20 April 1947; *Everybody's*, 24 May 1947) describing a telepathy experiment which took place at the West Cliff Theatre, Clacton-on-Sea on 17 April 1947. According to the newspaper account, the well-known American experimenter Dr J. B. Rhine was rung up at Duke University by trans-Atlantic telephone. He was asked to think of one item from a list of forty simple objects that had been sent to him. Dr Rhine did so, and without knowing his choice, Mr Fogel drew a picture of the right object, which was a boat.

This was regarded as a great success, and has been written up as an instance of genuine telepathic communication. As Dr Rhine's name has been used freely, I think it is only fair that readers of the *Journal* should know his true opinion of the matter. In a letter dated 24 May 1947 he writes: